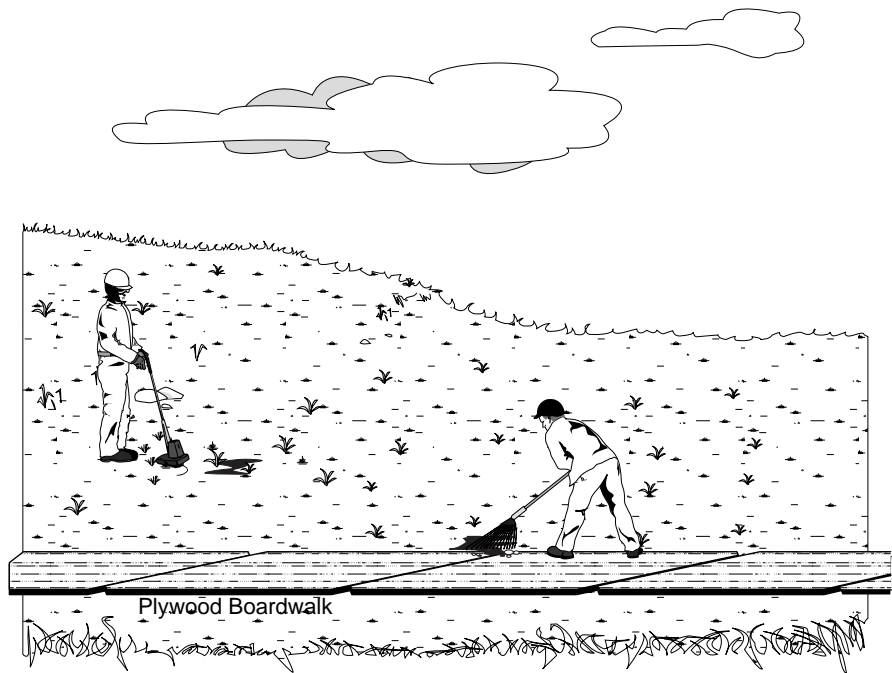


Cutting and Trimming Vegetation



Cut and trim spill-affected surface vegetation to remove spill residue and dying or dead vegetation from the tundra surface. Remove contaminated plants to prevent remobilization of the spill residue and accelerate the recovery of the remaining plants.

Use cutting and trimming to remove foliage and stems only. Avoid damaging the plant roots. Collect the trimmed material by hand, rake, or shovel into collection bags, minimizing contact between contaminated and uncontaminated material.

APPLICABILITY

	APPLICABILITY	COMMENTS
SPILLED SUBSTANCE	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most applicable to crude oil or diesel.
TUNDRA TYPE	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet and moist tundras are more resistant to physical damage than dry tundra.
SEASON	Spring, summer, fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical damage can be minimized by working in the spring or fall when the ground is frozen and vegetation is dormant.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- This tactic has a high potential of physical impact to vegetation. Only surface vegetation should be removed. Root mat and surface structure should remain intact.
- This tactic is labor-intensive and may not be suitable for large sites where site access would cause long-term damage to areas unaffected by the spill.
- Cutting and trimming spill-affected vegetation have been used as part of the treatment strategy for crude-oil-affected moist and wet tundra sites on the North Slope with acceptable short-term results (Jorgenson and Cater, 1992). Information on the effectiveness of this tactic is based on field observations, not controlled experiments. No test data exist which document whether the use of this tactic results in long-term benefits to tundra restoration compared with other tactics, or in combination with other tactics, or in comparison with “no action.”

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND PERSONNEL

NOTE: Personnel typically work in pairs when cutting and trimming vegetation.

- Weed whacker
- Hand clippers or pruners
- Rakes (for collecting the trimmings)
- Trash bags
- Waste accumulation bins